NATURAL NEWS

The Field Museum
Exploring
The Earth And Its
People

Weekly Staff Newsletter
October 2, 1998

Field Museum to host conference on **Humankind's Evolutionary Roots: Our Place in Nature**

Field Museum staff are invited to attend a lecture by Dr. Mary-Claire King of the University of Washington, the first to prove that breast cancer is inherited in some families, in James Simpson Theatre at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, October 9. Admission is free with your ID; call **Susan Webb** at ext. 861 with any questions.

The lecture, entitled "Human Evolution and Diversity," marks the beginning of "Humankind's Evolutionary Roots: Our Place in Nature," the conference to be held at The Field Museum October 9-11. Sponsored jointly by the Midwest Center of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences (AAAS), the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, and The Field Museum, the conference will address recent advances in DNA research which have led to startling discoveries about the evolution of life on earth and the explosion of knowledge in a new scientific field some have come to call "evolutionary genomics."

Additional talks by J. Craig Venter (The Institute for Genomic Research), Jeanne Altmann (University of Chicago), R. W. Wrangham (Harvard University), Francisco J. Ayala (University of California, Irvine), and 13 others, will take place on Saturday and Sunday, October 10 and 11.

Admission to the King lecture is free for staff members. The basic registration fee of $35 ($15 for students) includes admission to all conference sessions and coffee breaks, as well as a reception in Stanley Field Hall on Saturday at 5:45 p.m. Registering for $100 also includes admission to a banquet in the Founders' Room on Saturday at 7 p.m.

To register please call Anne Moffat of AAAS at (773)753-8162. For a copy of the conference speakers schedule call **Elaine Zeiger** at ext. 338.

FIELD NOTES

Week of October 5

Public Events/Special Events

Illinois Mycological Association
• Monday, 6 p.m. in LH2

Chicago Hang Gliding Organization
• Monday, 7 p.m. in LH1

Argonne National Lab (150 people)
• Wednesday evening in SFH

Columbia College Teacher Workshop
• Thursday, 4:30 p.m. in Clrm C

Health & Medicine (100 people)
• Thursday evening in SFH

Chicago Is
• Thursday and Friday, 6 p.m.

Music Theater Workshop
• Thursday, 5 p.m. in Clrm C

Humankind's Evolutionary Roots
• Friday through Sunday

Northwestern Mem. Hospital (700)
• Friday evening in SFH

Staff/Volunteer Events

Tuesday Noon Lecture Series
• Zoology Classroom

Aerobics Class
• Tuesday and Thursday, 5 p.m.

Volunteer Training Sessions
• Wednesday and Saturday

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Vanishing treasures launched in the Philippines

The Field Museum's new publication, *Vanishing Treasures of the Philippine Rain Forest*, was launched in Manila on Saturday, September 19, by **Larry Heaney**, Zoology (**Jack Regalado**, Botany, the other co-author, was in the Netherlands at the time). The official launching, including a one-hour presentation by Larry, was held at a theater in Ortigas, one of the business centers of Metro Manila, and was co-sponsored by Conservation International-Philippines and First Philippines Holdings Corporation (one of the nation's largest corporations). Despite the typhoon that coincided with the event, 90 people attended, including representatives from businesses, the diplomatic community, the Philippine government, and universities. The response was both enthusiastic, since few members of the audience were aware of the Philippine's status as a "megadiversity" country, and somber, since most of the audience was unaware that much of that biodiversity, and the nation's watersheds, are threatened by deforestation. Larry also made subsequent presentations to the Association of Philippine Museum Volunteers at the Ayala Museum in Makati, and to the Institute of Biology at the University of the Philippines.

The initial presentation generated such interest that Larry was invited to brief the Philippine's new President, Joseph Estrada, on biodiversity and conservation. Unfortunately, the typhoon and the simultaneous collapse of Philippines Airlines, the carrier of 80% of domestic air traffic, led to the cancellation of two appointments with the president. Others will follow through on this, and Larry may have another opportunity when he returns to the Philippines in April next year.

Bernal returns to Bolivia

Class of 1996 Advanced Training Program (now Conservation Training Consortium) intern **Nuria Bernal** of the Coleccion Boliviana de Fauna returned to La Paz, Bolivia this week, concluding a two-month program of studies with **Bruce Patterson** (MacArthur Curator, Mammals). The two mammalogists studied and catalogued small mammal collections made during the course of their joint fieldwork last year in Oruro, Potosi, Chuquisaca, and Tarija provinces. Most of their time was devoted to studying U.S. museum collections of Andinomys, a large Andean leaf-eared mouse, and preparing their description of a second new species of this genus. Nuria returned to La Paz with the Bolivian share of the collection, as well as signed copies of a new "convenio" (or memorandum of understanding) with the CBF that grew out of their joint work. The convenio calls for collaboration and cooperation in the field, museum, laboratory, and classroom; Bolivian investigators eagerly extend "saludos" and "bienvenidos" to their Field Museum counterparts in other branches of zoology and vertebrate paleontology. Copies of the agreement are available in the Academic Affairs and Zoology offices.

Haas attends Long-Term Human Dynamics workshop

Jonathan Haas, MacArthur Curator in Anthropology, recently returned from a workshop on "Long-Term Human Dynamics" held at the Santa Fe Institute. The focus of the workshop was to evaluate the current state of efforts to construct computerized models to simulate the evolution of human cultural systems. Two working groups have developed models of settlement and abandonment of the Anasazi region of the American Southwest. In both of these models, the natural landscape and long-term environmental patterns are programmed into the computer. Digitized human "agents" are then turned loose on this landscape where they are programmed to

Congratulations and welcome to Institutional Advancement staff members

Please join the Institutional Advancement area in celebrating a promotion and welcoming a new member to our staff.

Cindy Andresen has been promoted to Manager, Women's Board and Field Associates Programs in recognition of her leadership and energy working with these two very important Field Museum friends groups.

Amanda Geppert recently joined our staff as Events Coordinator. She will have oversight of the Founders' Room and will be responsible for the logistics of all events supporting the Museum's advancement goals. Amanda sits in the Women's Board/Tours office space on the main level and can be reached at ext. 251.

Submitted by **Willard White**

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

Doris Yelvington	Human Resources	15 Years
Charles James III	Engineering	10 Years

FYI: Benefit plan Summary Annual Reports

Last week, all staff who participate in any of the Field Museum group benefit plans should have received Summary Annual Reports (SAR) for all benefit plans in which you participate. These reports are a summary of financial information related to the benefit plans. We are required by the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA) to provide this information to you, but also hope to highlight the large investment The Field Museum has made for you. If you have any questions, please call **Carole Kasarda** at ext. 529.

MCDONALD'S UPDATE

The new McDonald's restaurant will open on Monday, October 12 at 7 a.m.

Submitted by **Laura Sadler**

FOR SALE

Vasque Sundowner Gore-Tex leather hiking boots. Men's Size 10 Narrow. Very good shape, hardly broken in. After a serious hike, I discovered they were too small. Call **Peter Stevenson** at ext. 636 if you're interested in making an offer!

Tuesday at Noon Seminar Series continues

Our speaker for October 6 will be Dr. Domenico Parisi of the National Research Council in Rome. He will speak to us on the subject of "Artificial Life and the Evolution of Human Societies."

Our September 29 speaker was Randall Borman, recipient of The Field Museum's Parker/Gentry Award in conservation, who spoke to us on the subject of conservation in the lowlands of eastern Ecuador. Randy's talk gave us many insights into how a small indigenous community is attempting to develop a more sustainable relationship with its rain forest and riverside environment. The gathering and protection of newly hatched turtles is one of the community's recently developed initiatives to counteract the decline of a highly prized food source.

Submitted by **Bill Burger**

Academic Affairs Professional Staff meeting scheduled

There will be a meeting of the Academic Affairs Professional Staff on Wednesday, October 7 at 3:00 p.m. in Lecture Hall 1. **Clare Munana** and **Nicholas Ulanov** will present a review of their work so far on the Museum's new strategic plan.

Submitted by **Janice Klein**

$$ FINANCE FORUM $$

The 1999 budget process has begun, and the schedule implemented by the Finance Department is as follows:

- **September 28**
  Docket members presented with the schedule and process for preparation of 1999 budget.
- **October 5**
  Worksheet packages distributed to Vice Presidents, who will further allocate to Departments.
- **October 23**
  Worksheet packages returned to the Finance Department by Vice Presidents.
- **November 9, 11, 13**
  Budget meetings with Docket members to finalize budget components.
- **November 16**
  Balanced budget presented to the Finance Committee of the Board.

The worksheet packages prepared by the Budget Administrator will provide detailed instructions for the completion of all unrestricted, restricted, and grant budgets. Justifications will be needed for all spending, and details regarding all projects and programs will be required. We appreciate the cooperation of all who are involved in the preparation of the budget, and are happy to be of assistance.

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behave according to certain basic rules of behavior (growing and eating food, reproduction and death, etc.). The actions of the computerized agents are then compared against the actual pattern of human settlement observed in the archaeological record. Jonathan presented the group with a preliminary outline of a new project he is undertaking that will attempt to simulate the evolution of complex societies on the coast of Peru in the period from about 2500 to 1000 B.C. Alan Liu, a student intern from the Illinois Math and Science Academy, is assisting with this project.

Sue's skull scanned

Fossil Vertebrates preparator **Bob Masek** and Research Scientist **Chris Brochu** (both Geology) accompanied Sue's head to an industrial CT scanning facility operated by Rocketdyne, a division of Boeing, near Los Angeles on August 21. Bob returned the following week, after helping orient the skull on the scanner, and Chris spent the following weeks either at the scanning facility or visiting nearby museum collections to study other tyrannosaur material – including skull fragments from what the staff at UC Berkeley claim is a T. rex larger than Sue. ("I took measurements – we'll see about that," says Chris.) The scanning is taking longer than anticipated for a variety of reasons, but the scans yielded to date are far better than anticipated, and the results will be worth the wait. The skull will return to The Field Museum sometime in mid-to-late October, at which time it will go to the Third Floor Geology prep labs for an intensive bout of delicate preparation.

Education Department wins Award of Excellence

On October 9, 1998, the Department of Education and Outreach will be presented with an Award of Excellence from the Illinois Association of Museums for its project *Inspiring People: British Airways World Sales Conference*. As you may recall, the Education Department collaborated with British Airways, Imagine Chicago, and the Chicago Children's Choir over a seven-month period of intensive planning to create an innovative world sales conference for approximately 350 of British Airways' top sales executives. The conference, which took place in April, paired each sales executive with a child from the Chicago Children's Choir. These pairs of adults and children then participated in a series of object-based learning activities that demonstrated how asking the right question often opens the door to better communication, understanding, and decision making. For the conference participants, the highlight of the day was undoubtedly the time spent at "Inspiration Stations." At these stations, educators guided small groups of adults and children through a process of identifying, tagging, and documenting various cultural objects, which had been brought to the Museum by the sales executives as representative of their cultures. Through this process, the adults and children learned about each other and about the Museum's role in preserving and fostering respect for cultural diversity. These same objects are now being assembled into "Inspiration Boxes" for distribution through the Harris Educational Loan Center. Countless hours were devoted to making this event a tremendous success. **Mary Ellen Munley**, **Dan Brinkmeier**, and **Beth Crownover** sincerely thank everyone who contributed to the project, including the staff of the visitor services, security, special events, graphic design, engineering, and housekeeping departments. A very special thank you goes to all who volunteered as activity facilitators or guides.

Submitted by **Dina Zissimopoulos**

FAN MAIL

Dear **President McCarter**:

We appreciate you and your staff taking the time to host the Summer of Discovery program for the incoming fifth graders for Charter School.

The entire experience exceeded all expectations. The Museum was very supportive and tolerant of the 27 students' presence during the month of July. **Mary Ellen Munley**, the Museum's Education Director, made it all happen. She had a clear sense of the school's vision and worked diligently to liaison with the Museum staff to provide access to the whole Museum. **Phil Hanson** and **Nadine Kendra** of the [Education] Department assisted with the daily legwork. They were diligent in coordinating all arrangements for the requested workspaces and helped to ensure the culminating dinner and presentations were successful.

Thanks to all of you.

Sincerely yours,
Henry S. Webber
Vice President for Community Affairs
The University of Chicago

Dear **Sophia Shaw**:

Congratulations! The Field Museum won a Superior Achievement Award from the Illinois Association of Museums for *An Explorer's Guide to The Field Museum*. The committee used the following words to describe what was their favorite publication: fun, user-friendly, affordable, stimulating, colorful, fascinating, concise and informative. They were also impressed with how the publication put everything into both museum and world context. It seemed to be written for a fairly advanced audience, but the guide is captivating and engaging enough to capture everyone's interest.

Sincerely,
Mary Turner
Coordinator
Illinois Association of Museums

Dear CCUC [submitted by **Madeleine Tudor**],

We recently visited your *Living Together* exhibit and, as retired teachers, we must tell you that we found it excellent. This knowledge is absolutely essential for our children to know these days. They usually don't receive it, and when they do, they don't understand it! You have made these concepts understandable. I wish you could take this into every school and talk to the kids about it, because that's what kids lack – someone to talk to them about the concepts in *Living Together*. Your museum is so wonderful! Thanks for all your hard work to make this a better world for us all!

Sincerely,
Jim and Susan Lenz

P.S. The hair design part could go on the road.

Natural News

The *Natural News* is edited by **Rodger Patience** in the Development office (ext. 617, patience@fmnh.org) and **Erica Kelly** in the Finance Department (ext. 584, ekelly@fmnh.org). Submissions are welcome via e-mail or on disk in Microsoft Word or WordPerfect format. The deadline for submissions is Tuesday at noon. Remember – write early and often!